



**For Immediate Release
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STATE LAUNCHES \$7.5 MILLION BRIDGE-PAINTING INITIATIVE

BOSTON— Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington today announced a five-year, \$7.5 million dollar initiative to paint a number of steel bridges spanning urban parkways in Greater Boston that are suffering from rust and corrosion.

“This long-overdue maintenance will help to preserve and protect a number of key bridges over DCR’s urban parkways,” said Commissioner Burrington. “And this bridge painting effort is just one of the projects our Department is undertaking to repair and rehabilitate our bridge infrastructure.”

The first bridge to be painted as part of the initiative will be the Charles Circle Ramp (Bridge 57B) which links Charles Circle to Storrow Drive Westbound. Commissioner Burrington was on site to help apply the first coat of paint to the bridge. A \$278,860 contract has been awarded to Prime Coatings, Inc. of Salisbury to paint the bridge. The work is scheduled to be completed by November 15, and will be performed at night and on weekends as it is expected to involve some lane closings on Storrow Drive.

The next two bridge painting projects, scheduled for spring of 2007, will be the Charles Circle Ramp (Bridge 57A) from Storrow Drive to Charles Circle, followed by the pedestrian bridge at Charles Street over Embankment Road. Both of these projects are expected to be completed by the end of June 2007.

During the next fiscal year, DCR expects to paint the Fellsway Bridge over the B&M Railroad and also start painting the McCarthy Overpass in Somerville, which will likely be completed the following fiscal year. Other bridges expected to be painted include sections of the Bowker Interchange, which connects Boylston Street and Storrow Drive in the Back Bay Fens area and spans Beacon Street, Commonwealth Avenue, Ipswich Street, the Massachusetts Turnpike and the Boston-Albany Railroad.

DCR manages urban parkways throughout the greater Boston area, including 500 lane miles of parkways and 278 bridges. It is expected that \$500 million will be spent on projects to improve bridge infrastructure over the next five years.

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DCR will also initiate another major maintenance effort today by starting repairs to the Storrow Drive Westbound sidewalk between Longfellow Bridge and the Lower Basin Barracks. The sidewalk will be entirely replaced, providing a new, smooth surface and better drainage. Work is scheduled to be completed on November 6, and is part of a broader effort on DCR's part to streamline sidewalk management and maintenance.

In July, DCR conducted a comprehensive survey of sidewalks along the Esplanade and Charles River Reservation, with the intent of taking a systematic approach to sidewalk maintenance in the assessed area. The survey's findings were incorporated into a computerized map database, which will serve as the foundation for systematic sidewalk management and improvement projects in other areas. DCR will begin compiling data on other sidewalks in its urban parkways system next year.

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